

23.(previously presented) A system according to claim 12 further comprising:
means for continually monitoring power profiles of each of said plurality of system components after application of said one or more Raman pumps;
means for transmitting any change in said power profiles to a central location; and
means for recalculating, in real-time, the Raman gain profile following such change.

REMARKS

In response to the rejections of claim 1 and 12, Applicant has amended the claims as follows. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to read "system components" on lines 9 and 12, respectively.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hansen et al (2001/0036347) or Deguchi et al (2001/0050807) in view of Berger et al. (6,088,152). Applicant encloses an Affidavit of prior invention to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the filing dates of the Hansen et al and Duguchi et al references.

It is respectfully submitted that in light of the above-mentioned Affidavit, and with reference to our previous remarks regarding the teachings of Berger, amended claims 1 and 12, as well as the other claims on file, are patentable. Because of the dependency of all other claims in the instant application on independent claims 1 and 12, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the claims on file comprise features which patentably distinguish the instant application over the prior art.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims on file overcome all of the rejections outlined in the outstanding Office Action.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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